



IRTM DIVISION NEWS

The USFWS
IRTM Division brings
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Tech Tips: Sonexis Web Conferencing Part One:

By Dave Turner, R9 Telecommunications Engineer

The Sonexis conference bridge in the Washington Office supports audio and web conferences. If you want to share an application, give a Power Point presentation, or collaborate in editing a document with remote, in real-time across the network, try Sonexis web conferencing. Here are some tips to host a web conference:

1. Run the System Test on your PC before using the Sonexis bridge to find out if the proper application drivers are installed and to run a pop-up blocker detector. Pop-up blocking must be disabled.
2. Activate application sharing and select Desktop to share multiple applications without interruption. **Whatever** is visible on your desktop can be seen by all participants! If you choose to share individual applications instead of sharing your desktop remote users will see the message that "application sharing is paused" between applications.

Part Two will be published in the November 17th edition.

Meet Region 7 Chief Technology Officer Stephen Hanson



I love living in Alaska, and I take great pride in leading a division that provides customer support to FWS employees in Region 7 (R7). Alaska is approximately 1/5th the size of the contiguous lower 48 United States. R7 has the smallest number of FWS employees who manage 83% of the total USFWS National Wildlife Refuges System.

Logistics are a challenge: The road system in Alaska is extremely limited: Ten field offices are accessible only by plane or boat. The lack of service providers is another challenge. Prior to this week, there was only one Blackberry service provider for Anchorage and Fairbanks. A new vendor with good coverage in the lower 48 states will provide Blackberry services soon.

Time zones differences present a challenge: R7 is four hours behind Eastern Standard Time and two hours behind Mountain Standard Time.

Voice over IP radio and telephone are in place. By the end of the fiscal year all refuges will have digital narrowband radio communications. One of this year's biggest successes is the upgrade to T1 circuits from 56K frame relay for 15 out of 16 field offices.

R7 is not on the SWAN directly. Until October we were part of the DOI ARTNet WAN—officially renamed the DOI ESNAP. Because of this type of connection the R7 IRTM Division provides many of the same functions and services that the BCT provides for the SWAN. We maintain a firewall, internet and intranet server services locally as well as GIS support.

Some of the on-going projects for the region:

- 1) Complete the MS ADS migration from Novell by the end of November. Migration is 85% complete and began in April. One program (such as Ecological Services or Marine Mammal Management) migrated per week with three weeks advance notification.
- 2) Service-wide video communications. R7 has a complete video conference room equipped with a finger touch Smart board. Communication is possible only with the R7 field offices.

For a tantalizing look at the USFWS Alaska Refuges go to: <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/nwr.htm>.

